IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE, ANDHRA PRADESH
AT HYDERABAD

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR

PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MS JUSTICE G.ROHINI

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WRIT PETITION NO : 17995 of 2004

Between:

G.V. Rangaraju Kumar, S/o. Venkata Narasimharaju,
R/o. Bhimavaram, West Godavari District.

..... PETITIONER

AND

Additional Assistant Engineer (Operations) A.P. Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited, Nidamarru, West Godavari District.

.....RESPONDENT

Petition under Article 226 of the constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the Affidavit filed herein the High Court will be pleased to issue a Writ order or direction more in the nature of Writ of Mandamus directing the respondent not to remove the service connection of power supply of the petitioner by declaring that the action of the respondent vide his notice Lr.No.AAE/O/NDMR/F dt. 19-8-2004 is highly arbitrary, illegal, violative of principles of natural justice discriminatory violative of Art 14, 21 and 300-A of the Constitution of India.

Counsel for the Petitioner: MR.C.RAMACHANDRA RAJU

Counsel for the Respondent: MR.KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR

The Court at the admission stage made the following:

ORDER:

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent.

Petitioner states that he obtained service connections of power supply in the year 1994 bearing S.C.Nos.242, 243 and 244 for the purpose of agricultural operations at Tokkalapalli village, Nidamaru Mandal of West Godavari District. He states that he has been regularly paying the energy consumption charges and there is absolutely no default at any point of time. While so, the impugned proceedings dated 19.08.2004 issued by the respondent has been served on the petitioner, in which it is stated that as per the proceedings of the District Collector, West Godavari in R.C.No.D6/11717/96, dated 08.08.1999, the land of the petitioner form part of Contour +5' MSL as per the map of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh and that it also falls within the bird Sanctuary of Kolleru and therefore, the electrical service connections of the petitioner will be disconnected after one week from the date of the said notice. The petitioner denies all the allegations made in the said notice and states that the land in question is his own land. It is also contended that the unilateral decision of the respondent under the impugned notice to disconnect the power supply to the services connections of the petitioner without affording any opportunity to rebut the allegations made therein, is arbitrary and illegal apart from the being without jurisdiction.

A reading of the impugned notice shows that the petitioner was not issued any prior notice to rebut the allegations that the land in question forms part of Bird Sanctuary of Kolleru. It is also the specific plea of the petitioner that the proceedings of the District Collector, West Godavari District, dated 08.08.1999 were not served on him

and in the absence of the same, he cannot effectively explain the allegations in the impugned notice.

In the circumstances, I am of the view that it would be appropriate to afford an opportunity to the petitioner to meet the allegations made in the impugned notice.

The writ petition is disposed of setting aside the impugned notice with a direction to the respondent to furnish a copy of the proceedings of the District Collector, West Godavari District, Eluru in R.C.No.D6/11717/96, dated 08.08.1999, within one week from today. On receipt of the said proceedings, it is open to the petitioner to submit his explanation to the respondent treating the impugned notice as show-cause notice within one week thereafter. If such explanation is received within the time specified above, the respondent shall consider the same and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law.

Till such orders are passed, there shall not be any disconnection of power supply to the petitioner's Service Connection Nos.242, 243 and 244 situated at Tokalapalli village, Nidamarru Mandal, West Godavari District.

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05.10.2004

VGB

To

1 The Additional Assistant Engineer (Operations) A.P. Eastern Power

Distribution Company Limited, Nidamarru, West Godavari District.

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